श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव]

विधेयक में, न तो विधेयक में और न माननीया महोदया जी के वक्तव्य में बटाईदारों की समस्या का कोई निदान हुआ है । वह वहां पर बिना गांव के जब उचड़ेंगे, तो गांव में सभी जमीन वाले नहीं हैं, उसमें पचपिनियां नाम से बहुत से प्राणी हैं—बढ़ई हैं, लौहार हैं, कुम्हार हैं, और इस तरह के आर्टिजंस हैं, उनकी भी व्यवस्था कुछ नहीं है । उनको इन्होंने बता दिया कि ग्रामीण विकास में एन०आर०ई०पी०, आई०आर०डी०पी० में होगा । यह एन० आर० ई०पी०, आई०आर०डी०पी० नहीं है, यह गांव उजाड़ने पर जमीन लेने की बात है । उनकी भी कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है, जो अपंग हैं, अपाहिज है, जिसका उसी जमीन पर भरोसा है, उनकी जमीन लेने के बाद कुछ पैसे दिये जायेंगे, लेकिन उनकी आजीविका की व्यवस्था नहीं होगी। श्रीमान्, एक बात और, बहुत से किसानों ने आज इम्प्रूवड लैंड बनाई है, उसमें नलकूप लगा करके, बिजली लगा करके यह इम्प्रूव्ड लैंड हुई, इसकी भी कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है । एक बार सीलिंग हो जायेगा तो हो जायेगा । इस तरह की भी व्यवस्था नहीं है । आज कौन सी जमीन ऐसी है जहां पर कि किसान ने जमीन को इम्प्रूव नहीं किया है । एक बात तो होनी चाहिए । श्रीमन्, पहले एक कानून था प्रदेशों में कि जिसकी डेढ़ एकड़ जमीन है और जिसकी जीविका का साधन भी वही है, उसकी जमीन को नहीं लिया जाएगा । फिर जो उपजाऊ जमीन है, उस उपजाऊ जमीन को भी नहीं लिया जाएगा । लेकिन इस तरह की भी कोई व्यवस्था इसमें नहीं है । माननीय मंत्री महोदया ने इस पर कोई विचार नहीं रखा और न ही इसका कोई निदान रखा है । इसलिए मैं इसका समर्थन नहीं कर सकता ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI): The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Government's Decision to Pay Four More Instalments of Dearness Allowance to Central Government Employees

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with your permission I will like to make an announcement.

According to the existing scheme payment of an instalment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees is taken up for consideration after every eight point increase in the 12 monthly average of the All India Average Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (base 1960-100). The last instalment of Dearness Allowance was sanctioned on 21-5-1984 with effect from 1-11-1983 with reference to the average index of 520 points. Since then payment of four more instalments of Dearness Allowance with effect from 1-1-1984, 1-2-1984, 1-4-1984 and 1-6-1984 respectively have become due for consideration.

Government have now decided to pay these four instalments of Dearness Allowance to the Central Government employees in cash. Detailed modalities of this payment will be worked out and orders will be issued by the Ministry of Finance in due course.

Along with the payment of Dearness Allowance to the serving Central Government employees Dearness Relief to Pensioners including family pensioners is also sanctioned. Government have also decided to sanction four instalments of Dearness Relief to the pensioners with effect from 1-1-1984, 1-2-1984, 1-4-1984 and 1-6-1984. Orders in this regard will also be issued by the Ministry of Finance in due course.

The financial burden on the Exchequer during the current year as a result of payment of the four instalments of Dearness Allowance would approximately be Rs. 274.16 crores and on account of Dearness Relief to the pensioners would approximately be Rs. 31.33 crores.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra): That means the elections are imminent.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am glad that at least the Union Finance Minister has come out with a statement granting the dearness allowance to the Central Government employees which fell due in the meantime. Sir, the Finance Minister himself has admitted that the Government decision is taken upon the Third Pay Commission's recommendation that a dearness allowance instalment has to be given after every eight point increase in the 12 monthly average of the All India Average Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (base 1960-100), but we have been seeing that the Government does not pay or grant the dearness allowance instalment as soon as it falls due. From the statement itself it is seen that the Finance Minister has sanctioned the D.A. due from 1st of January. That means after nine months he is giving the D.A. This shows that the Central Government employees had suffered the erosion in the real value of wages in January, 1984 and after 8 months they are getting the compensation for the loss which they have already suffered. Every time the employees, and for that matter their organisations, are required to agitate, demonstrate, organise certain programmes and thereafter the Government announces the grant.

[**Mr. Deputy Chairman** in the Chair] And now a new phenomenon has come. A new organisation has come out among the Central Government employees headed by a leader of the ruling party in Delhi and only after that organisation observes a programme, then an announcement is made by the Union Finance Minister. This is being seen from the last two occasions. So while I do not quarrel with the Union Finance Minister in giving a boost to this organisation, I want to say that by this the Government is going to set a bad precedent, a bad example, whereby a Government scheme which it has accepted on the basis of the Third Pay Commission's recommendation is implemented soon after the employees come out on the streets, agitate and organise demonstrations. So I want to say that hence forward—because in the meantime, as I know and the Union Finance Minister will surely agree, one instalment has fallen due, another instalment, i.e. the fifth instalment, and the sixth instalment is likely to fall due very soon—and I would like to know how many instalments are still due to the Central Government employees according to the scheme of payment of dearness allowance and when the Central Government is going to pay those instalments of DA—and in future I would appeal and request the Union Finance Minister to ensure that DA is paid to the Central Government employees as soon as it falls due and is admitted by the Government as having fallen due, before the Government employees are required to come out on the streets and agitate.

SHRI S. W. DHABE (Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, but for the elections being round the corner the hon. Minister would not have made the announcement about payment of four instalments of DA. Sir, the problem of payment of instalments of DA to Central Government employees is very deplorable that it is not paid when it becomes due and every time the Government thinks it has the discretion to pay or not to pay at any time it chooses. Even in the Budget, a provision was made for payment of dearness allowance. I do not understand why it was so much delayed, right from the month of March when we adopted the Budget up till now.

Sir, many times we have pointed out—and I would like to point out again—that the main thing is that they are not treating the Government servants at par wtih the industrial workers. They are treated as a separate class of workers which requires a separate treatment. Now the Minister having taken a decision to pay bonus and having announced the bonus

[Shri S. W. Dhabe]

for the Central Government employees of 15 days' pay, there is no reason why the Government should not adopt the scheme for payment of dearness allowance to industrial workers, whereunder in all the public sector undertakings dearness allowance is paid as the cost of living index goes up as point-to-point adjustment every month. Here first it becomes due, then they wait for 6 months and only then it is paid. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will advise the Government to revise the whole scheme of payment of dearness allowance so that this problem does not arise from time to time and the employees are not required to court arrest and hold demonstrations every time on this account, when the cost of living index is going up and the Government has failed totally to keep the same under control and inflation is going up.

SHR P. N. SUKUL (Uttar Pradesh): I simply do not agree with Shri Dhabe that it is because of the coming elections that this has been announced. Elections or no elections, the Government of India has been quite liberal with their employees in raising the DA and in announcing bonus. But I would like to take this opportunity to invite the hon. Minister's attention to the plight of the State Government employees who are also public servants under the Constitution. Under the Constitution, 'State employee" means an employee of the Union Government or the State Government or local bodies. The expression "State employee" covers Central Government employees as well as State Government employees. So, once you give this economic justice to your own employees, the Government of India must impress upon the State Governments also the need to do so. Sir, six DA instalments are due in West Bengal. West Bengal Government is the champion of the working classes, but their employees have not yet got those six instalments of DA. In Tripura, the State Government employees there have not still got the six instalments of DA due to them.

As regards bonus, the Government of India announced bonus. I am glad to say that in my own State of Uttar Pradesh, the Government last year announced and paid bonus to its employees. But no other State Government has so far paid bonus to its employees. Therefore, it is also the bounden duty of the Government of India to ensure that all Governments in the country show the same justice to their own employees. In this connection, it is also quite proper that a national formula of dearness allowance is evolved and payments made accordingly. Thank you.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, first of all I would like to impress upon those honourable Members who tried to read between the lines that there is nothing to read between the lines. Perhaps honourable Members would appreciate that elections or no elections, I have announced the release of instalments of dearness allowance when I was in a position to do so. It is not relevant—whether at any particular point of time or at any given situation when certain organisations raised demands the announcement was made. It was not like that. Honourable Members would appreciate that when I had the opportunity of explaining the price situation on the floor of the other House, I explained that I shall have to restrict money supply to some extent and, at the same time, reduce Government expenditure so that I can put a break on the inflationary trend. But, because of certain factors, we have noticed that certain instalments became due and we took the decision of releasing them.

Mr. Ghosh pointed out that there is erosion, but the erosion is in notional terms and not in real terms. He is very well aware, because he is an established leader of that sector, that when we announce the release of dearness allowance instalments, it becomes due from the date on which it actually falls due. Therefore, the employees will get them from 1st of January, 1st of February, 1st of April and 1st of June.

Sir, with regard to the budget provisions, that was precisely my point. Whatever I allocated in my budget which I

presented before the House, it has already been taken care of. Out of Rs. 300 crores sanctioned, already Rs. 200 crores have been spent on the four earlier instalments which I declared sometime in May itself. Therefore, additional provisions had to be made and this is precisely the reason because of which I thought it should be done at the appropriate time. And it has nothing to do with the demand of one trade union organisation or because of the employees coming on the streets.... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: At Talkatora you yourself addressed a meeting.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I addressed a conference. It was not on the street but in a stadium. I make a distinction between street and stadium. But honourable Members' memory should not be so short. Earlier also, on the eve of the festival season I declared this decision and even last year when I agreed to cover wider sections of the employees by 15 days' bonus, that announcement also I made on the eve of the festival season—because this is the time when Government employees expect it. The quantum of one instalment is well known to honourable Members. It is more than Rs. 71 crores, so far as regular employees are concerned. So far as pensioners are concerned, it is eigth to nine crores of rupees. Mr. Sukul pointed out about the State Government employees. I do appreciate it. But, at the same time, he will appreciate my predicament. After all, I am to take care of 5 million employees in the Central sector; and on the top of that, if I am to take responsibility for the State Government employees, I am afraid, it will not be possible for me. But we do provide assistance to certain categories of States like Tripura. We do provide assistance even in the area of non-development expenditure or non-Plan expenditure. After all, the State Goverments will have to take care of their employees. This is one of the reasons why sometimes I delay. I delay, even if I am in a position to release. I delay it deliberately to ensure that it does not create an awkward situation for the State Governments who are not in a position to meet the commitment towards their own employees.

And in regard to the scheme about DA and its revision, I am afraid, I would not like to enter into that area right now because there is a view, and I would expect the Fourth Pay Commission to look into this aspect. They should make certain recommendations which I can act on. Only one point I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members, that certain distortion has taken place, though I have no intention of just now entering into that area or rectifying it. But when you decided 8 points, your base was 200. Today when your base is 560 or 550, hardly one or two percentage would be about 8 points. Earlier it was 4 per cent. Eight points with reference to 200 was 4 per cent, but today even one or two percentage would lead you to that. That is why you have noticed that every alternate month one instalment is due. It is mainly because a situation has come statistically when the base has widened and in terms of percentage...

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Inflation.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Yes, I expected that Mr. Kalmadi would get up and say that. But, at the same time, you cannot expect me to have a zero or negative rate of inflation. After all, ours is a developing nation. If we have a negative rate of inflation, you do not consider it a year of economic performance. That aspect will also have to be taken note of. I think the hon. Members will appreciate it. If I remember correctly, they did not raise even a Starred Question on it and they did not even demand it.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: An Unstarred Question was there.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: It was Unstarred but not Starred. When *suo motu* I have come out with the statement, they should appreciate it.